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The supposed occurrence of the White-necked Picathartes *Picathartes gymnocephalus* in Togo

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In the 1890's the German collector Ernst Baumann worked in the Misahohé (6° 57'N, 0° 35'E) area near Kpalimé (6° 54'N, 0° 37'E) in Togo. Misahohé is on a forested escarpment, where a forest remnant is still present today. On 26 June 1894 Baumann discovered a nest of *Picathartes gymnocephalus* containing young at "Apototsi b. [near] Leglebi" and collected an adult pair there 2 days later (Reichenow 1897: 34). The locality was described as mountainous and difficult of access. Collar & Stuart (1985), following Bannerman's (1948: 115, 117) account, imply, as he did, that 2 sites, Apotsi (*sic*, Collar & Stuart) and Leglebi were involved, and think it possible that *P. gymnocephalus* may now be extinct in Togo.

In an attempt to identify the breeding site, I have been unable to find the precise place names mentioned, but there is a Leklebi Duga at 6° 57'N, 0° 29'E in Ghana about 2 km SW of the Leklebi Dafo marked on the map of the Gold Coast in Bannerman (1931). Both these places are near Misahohé, but they are in that part of "Togoland" which voted to join Ghana in the 1956 plebiscite. In modern maps the Leklebi prefix is often dropped (only Duga or Dafo being marked) and on a 1: 50,000 map of 1952 there is a hilly area named Awatotse immediately to the NW of Duga. If I am correct in thinking that this Awatotse is the Apototsi where Baumann found his birds, then there have never been any records of *P. gymnocephalus* in what is now the Republic of Togo and so the question of its extinction there is an abstraction. Nevertheless its discovery in Togo would not be surprising, as suitable habitat remains in the Togolese part of the Atacora chain of hills from Kpalimé north to Fazao (8° 42'N, 0° 46'E).

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